

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 34-40, and 42-56 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 40, 54, 55, and 56 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 9-33 have been previously cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 56 has been allowed. Claims 1, 40, 54, and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Elwalid, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,353,616 B1 (hereinafter Elwalid). Claims 2-8, 34-39, and 41-53 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent, objected to claim 2. Claim 1 should therefore be allowed to issue. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent, objected to claim 41. Claim 40 should therefore be allowed to issue. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 54 and 55 have each been amended to include the subject matter of objected to claim 2. Claim 54 relates to a computer program product that provides a method for performing the steps outlined in claim 1. Claim 55 relates to a computerized device that provides a means for performing the steps outlined in claim 1. Claims 54 and 55 should therefore be allowed to issue. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 43 has been voluntarily amended to correct a typographical error with respect to the dependency of the claim. As amended, claim 43 now properly depends from claim 42. Claims 42 and 43 parallel previously examined claims 3 and 4 where claim 4 depends from claim 3. As such the amendment corrects antecedent basis issues regarding the claim and does not add new matter to the application.

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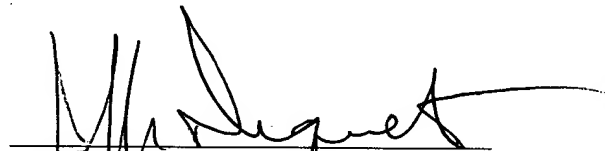
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee necessary, this fee may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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